



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
INDIAN BEND WASH VISITOR'S CENTER
4201 N. HAYDEN ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Jeanne Alspaugh, Chair
James Duchene, Vice Chair (departed at 6:29 p.m.)
Robert Frost, Commissioner
Ron King, Commissioner
Stan Koczka, Commissioner
Harry Schlegelmilch, Commissioner
- ABSENT:** John Faramelli, Commissioner
- STAFF:** Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Director
Lorelei Oien, Administrative Secretary
Tim Barnard, Parks and Recreation Manager
Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager
Terry Erickson, Parks and Recreation Manager
Hugh McGill, Parks and Recreation Manager
Reed Pryor, Parks and Recreation Manager
Tim Ostby, LPC, Human Services Specialist
Judge B. Monte Morgan, Scottsdale City Court
Daniel Morgan, LCSW, Human Services Specialist
Officer Dan Antrim, Scottsdale Police Department
Officer Anthony Bellissimo, Scottsdale Police Department
Joanne Meierdirks, LPC, Human Services Specialist
Sheila Williams, MSW, Human Services Specialist
- GUESTS:** Dave Kross, McDowell Mountain Little League Board
Ed Boyle
Lillian Shahean
Rob Catzeroff

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Alspaugh called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above, noting the presence of a quorum.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chair Alspaugh called for a moment of silence.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **Study Session of January 20, 2010.**

COMMISSIONER KOCZKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2010 WORK STUDY SESSION. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER FARAMELLI WAS ABSENT.

- **Regular Meeting of January 20, 2010.**

COMMISSIONER SCHLEGELMILCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2010 REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER FARAMELLI WAS ABSENT.

5. PROPOSED MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN LITTLE LEAGUE SPONSORED CONCESSION STAND AT COPPER RIDGE SCHOOL BALL FIELDS

Tim Barnard, Parks and Recreation Manager, will provide information on the proposed McDowell Mountain Little League sponsored concession stand at Copper Ridge School ball fields for the Commission's review and discussion.

Mr. Barnard reviewed a proposal from the McDowell Mountain Little League for a temporary concession stand to be placed at the Copper Ridge School ball fields. The MMLL has been a member in good standing for over ten years, and has participated in the Youth Sports Facility Allocation Policy. The concession stand would be located among the four fields at the south end of the school. The plan calls for the construction of a concrete pad, 24 feet by 22 feet, upon which a temporary mini-unit would be erected in for the duration of the season. The league will pay for the construction of the pad, and the rental, installation, operation, and removal of the unit. The City will pay for the electrical connection to the pad, and for utilities throughout the season. The pad will be on School District property. Construction of the pad will take one day.

Mr. Kross said the League plans to have parents and board members staff the concession stand. No food will be prepared on site. Any profits will return to the MMLL to pay for operating costs. Mr. Barnard noted that the agreement is consistent with other concession operations.

Commissioner Schlegelmilch inquired whether the pad would allow a permanent stand to be built there some day. Mr. Barnard responded that the pad would be the proper size for a permanent structure, though there are no plans to build one at this time. In response to a further inquiry from Commissioner Schlegelmilch, Mr. Barnard used a map to illustrate what the sightline would be from the concession stand to the parking lot. Vice Chair Duchene noted that the fields are at a lower elevation than the parking lots. He said leagues need these types of concessions for fund raising. The MMLL has donated facility improvements to the City, and have proven to be good partners.

Commissioner Frost noted that this agenda item was included for informational purposes only. It is up to the School District to approve the pad. Vice Chair Duchene inquired about the process moving forward. Mr. Barnard confirmed that the School District has already approved the site, the insurance requirements, and the operations plan. The Commission does not need to take any action.

6. YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW

Hugh McGill, LPC, Parks and Recreation Manager; Tim Ostby, LPC, Human Services Specialist; Judge b. Monte Morgan, Scottsdale City Court; Daniel Morgan, LCSW, Human Services Specialist; Officer Dan Antrim, School Resource Officer, Scottsdale Police Department; Officer Anthony Bellissimo, DUI Task Force, Scottsdale Police Department; Joanne Meierdirks, LPC, Human Services Specialist, and Sheila Williams, MSW, Human Services Specialist, will provide an overview of the various prevention and intervention programs offered to Scottsdale residents.

Mr. McGill provided an overview of the Youth and Family Services Program. The mission is to provide programs that strengthen families and build the capabilities of youth in response to the needs of the community. It is a citywide program that was started in 1986 to provide more local oversight of cases concerning minor and first offenders.

Mr. Ostby reviewed the Juvenile Diversion Program, which was formed through an IGA between Scottsdale and the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department. It is a community-based program for Scottsdale youth who commit offenses in Scottsdale. The majority of cases come from the Municipal Court, with other cases coming from the County Juvenile Court, individual probation officers, and other branch courts. The diversion process allows youth to avoid a permanent blot on their juvenile record. They usually avoid court-imposed probation, and hopefully avoid any further involvement with the court. At every step, the values of personal responsibility and accountability are encouraged, helping the teens make better decisions and to learn from their mistakes. A small amount of money spent now can prevent much larger expenditures from being necessary later on.

Judge Morgan said Scottsdale's Court sees great value in being involved in juvenile diversion. As a presiding judge, he uses his courtroom as a wakeup call to the youth. The Court primarily handles traffic, alcohol, curfew, tobacco, truancy, and littering offenses for juveniles. Those who qualify for the program are offered the opportunity for a \$40 fee. Citations are dismissed for those who complete it. Cases such as reckless driving and DUIs do not qualify for diversion. The program puts the youth in touch with a diverse group of counselors who can help them work through the issues in their lives. Judge Morgan said it is important that these young people be given advice from within the Scottsdale community.

Chair Alspaugh inquired how drug possession cases are handled. Judge Morgan responded that they are treated as delinquent or incorrigible acts, and must be resolved by the juvenile judge at the Superior Court level. Commissioner Koczka inquired whether the families of offenders are required to participate. Judge Morgan responded that juveniles must be accompanied in court by a parent, guardian, or attorney. Mr. Ostby added that parents are also involved in the initial intake assessment interview and participate in creating a work plan.

Mr. Ostby reported that 650 referrals came to the Diversion Program last year. About one-third of cases are either alcohol-related, or minor possession and consumption offenses. Curfew cases comprise about 20%, shoplifting cases number about 13%, and school truancy cases about 7%. The program works with youth ages 9 to 18. Three-fourths are of high school age, while another 18% are of middle school age. Fifty-five percent are male.

Mr. Daniel Morgan explained that the Diversion process starts with an initial assessment interview. A first offense results in about ten hours of service. The program offers workshops to teach job, life, and money management skills. If they have alcohol, drug, or tobacco related offenses they must take a workshop on making better choices. The study skills workshop identifies the type of learner they are and proposes learning strategies. Individual education support provides focused instruction to those who need it. Substance abuse and risk screening helps identify potentially damaging behavior patterns. The program requires follow-up visits that are used to reinforce the overall message and to answer any lingering questions. Those who have completed the program, once they turn 18, can apply with the Superior Court to have the record expunged.

Mr. McGill said Youth and Family Services would not be as effective as it is without the partnership with the Police Department and the School District. Officer Antrim spoke about the Police Department's School Resource Officers (SROs). One goal of the program is to educate youth to make good decisions and grow up to be productive members of society. There is a constant communication between the various elements of the Diversion program, the schools, and the police to ensure they have what they need to succeed. Of the young people he has personally sent to the Municipal Court, few ever go back a second time. The SROs view the Diversion Program as an indispensable teaching tool.

In reply to a query by Commissioner Koczka, Officer Antrim said all the high schools have an SRO, while most of the middle schools share SROs. Chair Alspaugh queried about the budget impact on the SRO program. Officer Antrim responded that the budget problems might mean that all the middle school SROs will be lost. These are formative years for youth, and it is important to reach them during this time. SROs also train in and practice emergency response plans so they can prevent or react to emergencies on campuses.

Vice Chair Duchene said youth develop a positive view of police officers because of their presence in the schools. He inquired whether parents would have enough warning about impending cuts to the program to express their opinions to Council. Officer Antrim responded that parents should be alerted to the possibility now. The School District is waiting to see what money will be available from the State, and will adjust its budget accordingly. Ms. Cameron confirmed that Staff would provide the Commission with the City's budget calendar once it becomes available.

Mr. McGill said the Salt River Pima/Maricopa Indian Community provided a grant that has allowed the Diversion Program to offer alcohol and drug education. Officer Bellissimo said Scottsdale has an epidemic on its hands and unless something is done, it will only get worse. Kids have been exposed to many bad ideas from the internet and other social networking technologies. The DUI Program's primary function has been on enforcement, but the focus has steadily moved towards education. The goal is to reach people before they make the decision to drink and drive. The Police Department's partnership with Youth and Family Services has greatly increased the effectiveness of the program.

Mr. McGill said the Outreach Program was developed to help families deal with conflict, behavior issues, and depression, when they would otherwise have a difficult time accessing services. Youth and Family Services provide the School District with \$238,000 for alcohol and drug abuse, violence and bullying prevention. The funding allows counselors to be on each campus for about six hours a week. The Multi-Disciplinary Team was created 10 years ago to pool resources to solve community problems. Conexiones is a group that was formed to meet the needs of the Hispanic community. There is an Early Childhood Development Program, and a Risk Assessment Program. The International Club is the newest addition to the outreach effort. This program was established to teach about the cultural traditions of Mexico and places a focus on the acculturation process in Arizona.

Ms. Williams explained that the Teen Employment Program has been around since 1988. It was founded to give teens after school jobs, and has since been expanded to include career exploration and development skills. About 35% to 40% of students are referred from Diversion. The unemployment rate for teens right now is 27.6%, which is the highest it has been in about 60 years. This comes at a time when more teens are required to get jobs to assist their families. Teens are having a hard time competing with adults for jobs. This is considered a prevention effort, since employed teens are far less likely to get involved in at-risk behavior. Many employers are retired seniors who are looking for help around the house. Local businesses also use the program to find employees. Teens must be between 14 and 19 years of age to qualify, and either live in or attend school in Scottsdale. Potential employers have an incentive to hire youth from the program because they know that the candidates are well prepared.

7. BOND 2010 – PROPOSED PROJECTS

Discussion of the Budget Commission's recommendations, and the development of a Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation to the City Council.

Commissioner Frost said he has been pushing for a bond election since he has been on the Commission. The bond program recommendations, however, include replacement of the aquatics chemical system, library technology improvements, park restroom replacement, the Indian Bend Wash lakes renovation, and ball field lighting system replacement. He finds this recommendation unacceptable. The library and parks proposal would likely fail because it lacks anything of interest to citizens, especially those living north of the CAP. The Commission should take a leadership role, develop a bond recommendation that reflects their thinking, and present it directly to the City Council.

He noted that the City's General Plan states, "Adequate natural and developed open space and recreational facilities are not merely desirable, but are essential to the overall well-being

of the community.” It would be appropriate for the Commission to send such a recommendation, as Mayor Lane has welcomed citizen involvement through the commissions. He proposed that several projects be prioritized ahead of the maintenance projects currently in the proposal:

- Phase Two of Grayhawk Park, to include a four-acre dog park, and a 6,000 square foot community building.
- Phase Two of Troon North Park, to include additional parking, and a 10,000 square foot community building.
- Phase One DC Ranch Community Center, to include initial park development, a control building, tennis courts, a children’s play area, and ramadas.

He also recommended that the Commission ask Staff to prepare cost estimates and prepare a Council action from the Commission to the City Council, and that the recommendation be placed on their agenda for February 16, when the Council will discuss the bond issue. He further proposed that one of the Commissioners present the recommendation at the February 16 meeting.

Ms. Cameron said Staff would be able to prepare the required documentation. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Cameron, Commissioner Frost explained that his proposal is for a 10,000 square foot building for Troon North, instead of the 30,000 square foot facility that was originally proposed. He feels that while a 10,000-foot facility would not be ideal, it would be big enough to be useful. The citizens voted for these projects once before, but the City never built them. North Scottsdale citizens will vote for them. He acknowledged that the community centers would incur operating costs eventually, but they will not be built for several years, and the economy will be likely be very different then. Scottsdale should not hold itself back over what might happen in five years.

Commissioner Koczka agreed that some of the projects are both necessary and politically appealing, but that does not negate the reality that maintenance and repairs are required on existing facilities. Commissioner Frost said the revenue from lease payments charged to utilities should be used to supplement maintenance costs.

Commissioner King agreed that voters need something to get passionate about, and maintenance items are not enough. It would be more reasonable to downsize the north Scottsdale projects, since they could always be expanded at a later date. Maintenance items are not highly visible, but are critical to maintaining park quality.

Chair Alspaugh inquired whether smaller community buildings would still serve the needs of the community. Ms. Cameron said the projects were developed some time ago, and the demographics may have changed since then. She noted that the Via Linda Senior Center was built with whatever money was available at the time, but was expanded later. Commissioner Frost clarified that he is not proposing to eliminate the maintenance items; he is simply recommending they be made a lower priority. Mr. Barnard noted that the Troon North and Grayhawk projects were scaled originally as 30,000 square foot facilities when the surrounding subdivisions were being developed. The master plans might need to be amended if the scales are reduced.

Commissioner Koczka inquired about the citizen group that would be formed to generate support for the bond. Commissioner Frost explained that before that committee can form,

the City Council must authorize the bond election. Once they do that, they can ask citizens to join the Bond Committee. The citizens would not be able to propose changes.

COMMISSIONER KOCZKA MOVED TO APPOINT ROBERT FROST AS THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO THE 2010 BOND DISCUSSIONS. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). VICE CHAIR DUCHENE WAS NOT PRESENT. COMMISSIONER FARAMELLI WAS ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER FROST MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PREPARE A CITY COUNCIL ACTION, TO BE AGENDIZED FOR THE FEBRUARY 16, 2010 MEETING, THAT WOULD REFELCT THE COMMISSION'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED LIBRARY AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS SECTION OF BOND 2010. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). VICE CHAIR DUCHENE WAS NOT PRESENT. COMMISSIONER FARAMELLI WAS ABSENT.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORT

The commissioners will give updates on events and activities they have attended since the last commission meeting.

Commissioner Frost reported that the General Plan Update Committee meets every other Monday. There is an effort to enhance Scottsdale's connection with Papago Park. Other open space opportunities might also be available.

Commissioner Koczka said the Aquatics Task Force has met twice since the last Commission meeting. He proposed the Commission agendize a monthly update on the group's progress.

Chair Alspaugh said the groundbreaking event at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park was amazing, and the Commission was well represented at the event.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Director, will update the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation, and Parks and Grounds Management Divisions. This includes, but is not limited to, updates on programming, special events, calendars, and upcoming meetings.

Ms. Cameron said Staff appreciates the Commission's advocacy and support.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.

Meets established criteria,
Janice M. Cameron
Director, Parks and Recreation